

CABLE SECRETARIAT DISSEMINATION

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25X1A SECURET 020938Z MAY 71 CITE [REDACTED]

DIRECTOR

\*Hqs' guidance for handling correspondence for the  
Lowenstein Moose briefings.

25X1A RYBAT [REDACTED]

25X1A REF: DIRECTOR 135226 \*

2 MAY IN 324605

1. SOUTH OPERATIONS BRIEFING BY [REDACTED] FOR LOWENSTEIN AND MOOSE  
CONSISTED OF THE FOLLOWING:

A. ENEMY INTENTIONS AND CAPABILITIES IN MR- III. DISCUSSED  
WERE THE NUMBER OF ENEMY UNITS WEST OF RTE 23 IN SAVANNAKHET  
PROVINCE (8-12 INFANTRY BATTALIONS); NUMBER OF ENEMY UNITS EAST OF  
RTE 23 IN SAVANNAKHET PROVINCE (75, INCLUDING FOUR NVA DIVISIONS  
WHICH SERVE A TWOFOLD ROLE OF DEFENDING THE TCHEPONE AREA, AS WELL  
AS POSING A THREAT TO THE TWO NORTHERN PROVINCES OF SVN).

B. RTE 23 WAS DISCUSSED AS A TACTICAL BOUNDARY FOR THE NVA.  
TO THE WEST THEIR FORCES ARE USED IN A SCREENING ROLE TO TIE DOWN  
AND HARASS RLG FORCES IN ORDER TO PREVENT ATTACKS UPON THEIR ROUTE  
STRUCTURES EAST OF THIS ROAD. HOWEVER, AS RLG FORCES CROSS RTE 23  
THERE IS ENEMY REACTION.

C. THE TRIANGLE AREA M. PHINE/TCHEPONE/M. NONG WAS MENTIONED  
AS BEING THE HEART OF THE NVA SUPPLY SYSTEM IN SOUTH LAOS. THROUGH  
THIS AREA, ALL SUPPLIES FLOWING SOUTH PASS IN ONE FORM OR ANOTHER.

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S E C R E T

D. THE SUBJECT OF FLOW OF ENEMY SUPPLIES TO SVN AND CAMBODIA WAS DISCUSSED WITH EMPHASIS PLACED ON THE FOLLOWING ROUTES: RTE 110, 96/110, 96, 92, 99, 23, 9, 914, 15/12, AND 911.

E. THE SUBJECT OF EIGHT MANDATORY RW TARGETS IN SOUTH LAOS WAS MENTIONED, AND THE ROUTES ENUMERATED.

F. IN MR-IV, THE BRIEFING OFFICER POINTED OUT THE CHOICES THE ENEMY HAD IN THE MOVEMENT OF HIS SUPPLIES DOWN RTE 233 TO CROSS RTE 233 AND UTILIZE RTE 99/96, TO CROSS RTE 16 AND USE THE SE KONG VALLEY, OR PROCEED ONTO THE BOLOVENS PLATEAU TO THE PAKSONG AREA AND WALK HIS SUPPLIES SOUTH OFF THE PLATEAU. TO USE THE SE KONG VALLEY, IT WAS POINTED OUT THE ENEMY WOULD HAVE TO ERADICATE OR NEUTRALIZE THE EASTERN BOLOVENS PLATEAU. THIS HE HAS DONE SUCCESSFULLY SO FAR BY PUSHING RLG GUERRILLAS BACK TO THE BAN HOUAY KHONG (LS-56) AREA.

G. ENEMY FORCE DISPOSITION IN MR-IV WAS DISCUSSED IN THE FOLLOWING MANNER: THERE ARE 7-9 NVA INFANTRY UNITS IN THE LAO NGAM/ SARAVANE/ BOLOVENS PLATEAU/ SE KONG VALLEY AREA; THERE ARE SOME 33 BATTALIONS EAST OF THE SE KONG RIVER, MAINLY ENGINEER, TRANSPORTATION AND ANTI-AIRCRAFT UNITS. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION, IT WAS POINTED OUT ONLY ONE NVA UNIT LEFT THE LAO NGAM/ SARAVANE AREA DURING LAMSON 719.

H. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION CONCERNING THE GEOGRAPHIC

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**SECRET**

BOUNDARIES OF NVA CONTROL IN SOUTH LAOS, BASE ANSWERED THAT THE AREA EAST

OF A NORTH/ SOUTH LINE DRAWN USING RTE 8, 23 TO THE 23/16 JUNCTION AREA, THEN EAST AND SOUTH AROUND THE BOLOVENS PLATEAU COULD BE DESCRIBED AS UNDER ENEMY CONTROL. FRIENDLY CONTROL WAS PRIMARILY CENTERED ALONG THE MEKONG RIVER WITH TWO PRIMARY SALIENTS: EAST ALONG RTE 9 IN MR- III TO DONG HENE/M. PHALANE AREA; THE BOLOVENS PLATEAU IN MR- IV. THE AREA IN BETWEEN THESE GEOGRAPHIC REGIONS WAS DESCRIBED AS CONTESTED AREA. A GRAPHIC REPRESENTATION OF THIS DIVISION OF CONTROL WAS PREPARED AND GIVEN TO THE VISITORS.

2. THERE WERE TWO PRIMARY AREAS OF DISCUSSION. THE FIRST WAS THE NUMBER OF BATTALIONS EAST OF RTE 23 IN MR- III BEFORE AND AFTER LAMSON 719. WHEN THE FACT OF 75 BATTALIONS <sup>86</sup> WERE PRESENTED, MR. LOWENSTEIN ASKED WHAT WAS THERE BEFORE. THE BRIEFING OFFICER RESPONDED HE DID NOT KNOW, BUT THE POINT WOULD BE CLARIFIED IN THE ORDER OF BATTLE BRIEFING THAT AFTERNOON. AN ATTEMPT WAS MADE TO CLARIFY THE FIGURE OF 75 BY NOTING THE NUMBER OF INFANTRY, ENGINEER, TRANSPORTATION, COMMO-LIAISON AND ANTI-AIRCRAFT UNIT THAT FIGURE REPRESENTED. IT WAS POINTED OUT IF THERE WAS ANY INCREASE IT WAS PROBABLY IN THE NUMBER OF INFANTRY UNITS.

3. THE SECOND POINT OF DISCUSSION WAS MACSOG AND OPERATIONS IN

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25X1A THE PRAIRIE FIRE AREA. WHEN THE BRIEFING OFFICER MENTIONED THE NUMBER OF ENEMY UNITS IN MR-IV EAST OF THE SE KONG RIVER, HE ALSO MENTIONED THAT DUE TO LIMITED GROUND SOURCES THE MAJORITY OF 25X1 INFORMATION WAS [REDACTED]; THEREFORE THERE COULD POSSIBLY BE MORE UNITS IN THE AREA. TO THIS POINT, MR. MOOSE ASKED ABOUT INTELLIGENCE FROM THE PRAIRIE FIRE AREA OF OPERATIONS. THE DCOS STATED HE DID NOT KNOW WHAT INFORMATION WAS DERIVED FROM THESE OPERATIONS. MOOSE ASKED WHETHER THERE WAS ANY COORDINATION BETWEEN MACSOG OPERATIONS AND OUR OPERATION IN THE AREA. THE DCOS REPLIED IF WE WERE GOING TO LAUNCH OPERATIONS IN THAT AREA WE WOULD NOTIFY THE APPROPRIATE PEOPLE. HE SUGGESTED IF LOWENSTEIN AND MOOSE WERE GOING TO SAIGON THIS POINT COULD BE CLARIFIED THERE. THEY REPLIED THEY WERE NOT.

4. MR. MOOSE DID ASK ABOUT TERRORIST ACTIVITY ALONG RTE 13 AND THE ABILITY OF THE LAO PEOPLE TO UTILIZE THIS ROUTE. THE BRIEFING OFFICER POINTED OUT IN MARCH THREE USAID TRUCKS WERE AMBUSHED SOUTH OF THAKHEK WITH ONE, POSSIBLY TWO, DRIVERS BEING KILLED. THE BRIEFING OFFICER ALSO POINTED OUT AN UNSUCCESSFUL ATTEMPT WAS MADE ON THE BIRDGE OVER THE SE BANGHIANG RIVER AND RTE 13 IN SAVANNAKHET PROVINCE. HE ALSO MENTIONED BG-313 SWEEPING ALONG

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RTE 13 NORTH OF SAVANNAKHET. IF WAS FURTHER STATED THAT CONVOY  
PRACTICES WERE NOT NECESSARY ALONG THIS ROUTE.

25X1A 5. AS VIEWED [REDACTED], THE ONLY AMMUNITION REALLY GIVEN TO  
LOWENSTEIN AND MOOSE WAS THE 75 BATTALION FIGURE FOR ENEMY FORCES  
EAST OF RTE 23. AS THERE UNDOUBTEDLY WAS AN INCREASE OF ENEMY FORCES  
IN REACTION TO LAMSON 719, AN INTERPRETATION COULD BE MADE THE ENEMY  
INCREASED HIS FORCES IN CONCERT WITH THE ALLIED ESCALATION REPRESENTED  
BY LAMSON 719. ATTEMPTED CLARIFY THIS ISSUE IN OB BRIEFING WHICH  
FOLLOWS. GP-1

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25X1A DIRECTOR Lowenstein Moose briefings.

RYBAT

2 MAY 1971 324602

25X1A REF: 25X1A

25X1A 1. THE FOLLOWING IS A RECAP OF [REDACTED] BRIEFING  
PRESENTED TO MR. MOOSE ACCCOMPANIED BY [REDACTED]

25X1A [REDACTED] AT THE PI OFFICE BETWEEN 1545  
25X1A AND 1615 HOURS ON 1 MAY 1971.

25X1A 2. THE ENTIRE TIME WAS SPENT ATTENDING [REDACTED] THE BRIEFING  
[REDACTED] CONSISTED OF BASICALLY THE SAME FORMAT AND MATERIALS  
AS PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED TO STATION.

25X1A 3. MR. MOOSE APPEARED VERY ATTENTIVE THROUGHOUT  
THE BRIEFING AND ASKED RELATIVELY FEW QUESTIONS. THE  
FOLLOWING ARE QUESTIONS ASKED BY MR. MOOSE DURING THE  
BRIEFING AND [REDACTED] RESPONSE.

Q. HOW MANY KILOMETERS OF ROAD HAVE THE  
CHINESE CONSTRUCTED?

A. APPROXIMATELY 300.

Q. HOW MANY AAA GUNS ALONG THE ROAD?

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A. IN FEBRUARY 1970 A TOTAL OF 391. THE LEVEL  
OF GUNS VARIES BETWEEN 350 AND 400 SINCE JANUARY 1970.

Q. AFTER COMPLETION OF A SECTION OF ROAD DO THE  
CONSTRUCTION WORKERS ALL MOVE OUT TO NEW ROAD CONSTRUCTION  
CAMPS?

A. NO. MANY ACTIVE CAMPS REMAIN ALONG COM-  
PLETED ROUTE SEGMENTS I.E. ROUTE 912 CONTAINS APPROX-  
IMATELY 30 ACTIVE FACILITIES RELATED TO ROAD CONSTRUCTION  
AND YET THIS ROAD WAS COMPLETED OVER ONE YEAR AGO.

Q. HOW MANY PHOTO MISSIONS OF THE ROAD DO YOU  
RECEIVE A MONTH?

A. IT VARIES, FROM TWO TO FIVE IS THE AVERAGE.  
EACH MISSION USUALLY GIVES US COMPLETE COVERAGE OF THE  
ROAD NETWORK AND THE MORE FREQUENT THE MISSION, THE BETTER  
WE CAN ANALYZE ROAD CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY.

Q. ARE YOU ABLE TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN BARRACKS  
TYPE BUILDINGS AND CONSTRUCTION CAMPS NEAR THE 8 SMALL  
ARMS FIRING RANGES?

A. YES, IN MOST CASES THESE AREAS ARE NEAR  
WEAPONS SITES - USUALLY AUTOMATIC WEAPONS - AND CONSTRUCTION

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**SECRET**

RELATED EQUIPMENT IS NOT OBSERVED IN THESE AREAS.

Q. WHAT ARE THESE AREAS? (REFERRING TO SLASH AND BURN AREA ON A PHOTO OF ROUTE 412).

A. A NATIVE SLASH AND BURN AREA. EXAMPLES OF CHINESE CULTIVATION APPEAR ON OTHER PHOTOS AND WE WILL SHOW YOU EXAMPLES OF THE NATIVE AND CHINESE CULTIVATION ON ROUTE 46 PHOTOGRAPHY.

Q. HOW DO YOU DETERMINE THE LEVEL OF ACTIVITY OR OCCUPANCY OF A CONSTRUCTION CAMP?

A. IN MANY CASES WE CAN OBSERVE PERSONNEL MOVING IN OR AROUND THE CAMPS. VEHICLES OR CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT ARE USUALLY PARKED IN THE ACTIVE CAMPS.

Q. ARE THE ROADS SINGLE LANE THROUGHOUT?

A. NO, MOST OF THE ROAD NETWORK IS DUAL LANE WITH THE EXCEPTION OF ROUTE 45 BETWEEN MUONG LA AND MUONG KHOUA. ROUTE 412 IS HARD SURFACE AS IS ROUTE 46 FROM MUONG SAI TO MUONG BENG.

4. MR MOOSE MADE EXTENSIVE NOTES THROUGHOUT THE BRIEFING ON THE CHINA ROAD. HE NEVER ASKED A QUESTION THAT CONCERNED ANY ASPECT OF THE [REDACTED] AERIAL RECON-

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NAISSANCE PROGRAM - POSSIBLY BECAUSE OF HIS HIGH INTEREST  
IN THE CHINA ROAD. HE ALSO COMMENTED THAT SENATOR  
MANSFIELD HAD MADE SOMETHING OF A HOBBY OF WATCHING THE  
PROGRESS OF THE CHINA ROAD FOR SOME TIME.

REPLIED THAT THE ROAD HAD ALSO BEEN HIS HOBBY FOR THE PAST  
TWO YEARS, AND MR. MOOSE RESPONDED <sup>D&D</sup> THAT PERHAPS THEY  
AND SENATOR MANSFIELD/ SHOULD PERHAPS GET  
TOGETHER SOMETIME.

5. MR. MOOSE WAS APPARENTLY VERY INTERESTED IN PHOTO  
RECONNAISSANCE, HOWEVER, HE DID NOT SEEM TO UNDERSTAND  
ANY OF THE BASIC PHOTO INTERPRETATION CONCEPTS OR  
RECONNAISSANCE SYSTEMS. HE ASKED FOR AN EXPLANATION OF  
CONSECUTIVE FRAMES AND A SHORT EXPLANATION OF CAMERA  
SYSTEMS, STEREO VISION, AND FLIGHT LINES WAS GIVEN, BUT  
HE DID NOT APPEAR TO COMPLETELY UNDERSTAND. BELIEVE  
THAT HIS MAY HAVE BEEN HIS FIRST COMPREHENSIVE BRIEFING  
FROM AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY. WE HAD EXPECTED MORE QUESTIONS  
AT THE END OF THE BRIEFING. HE EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION  
AND DEPARTED APPARENTLY SATISFIED. GP-1

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